n.

iR *HEN.* For the women.

FAL. For one of them,—she is in hell already, and burns, poor soul[2]! For the other,—I owe her money: and whether she be damned for that, I know not.

HOST. No. I warrant you.

FAL. No. I think thou art not: I think, thou art quit for that: Marry, there is another indictment upon thee, for suffering flesh to be eaten in thy house[3], contrary to the law: for the which, I think thou wilt howl.

HOST. All victuallers do so [4]: What's a joint of mutton or two in a whole Lent ?

P. HEN. You, gentlewoman,

DOL. What says your grace *?*

FAL. His grace says that which his flesh rebels against.

HOST. Who knocks so loud at door ? look to the door there, Francis.

Enter PETO.

P. HEN. Peto, how now ? what news ?

* — and burns, poor soul!] This is Sir T. Hanmer's reading. Undoubtedly right. The other editions had—" she is in hell already, and burns poor souls." The venereal disease was called, in those times, the *brennynge*, or *burning*. JOHNSON.

3 — for suffering flesh to be eaten, &c.] By several statutes made in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. for the regulation and observance of fish-days, *victuallers* were expressly forbidden to *utter jfteſh in Lent*, and to these Falstaff alludes. DOUCE.

4 — all VICTUALLERS do so :] The brothels were formerly screened, under pretext of being *victualling houses* and *taverns.*

So, in Webster and Rowley's Cure for a Cuckold: " This informer comes into Turnbull Street to a *victualling house*, and there falls in league with a *wench*, &c.—Now, Sir, this fellow, in revenge, informs against the *bawd* that kept the house," &c.

Again, in Gascoigne's Glass of Government, 1575: ** — at a house with a *red lattice* you shall find an old *bawd* called Pancle-

rina, and a young *damsel* called Lamia."

Barrett, in his Alvearie, 1580, defines a *victualling house* thus : "A tavern where meate is eaten *out of due season*." STEEVENS.